

## WESTON IN GORDANO PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the meeting of Weston in Gordano Parish Council held on 9<sup>th</sup> January 2020 commencing at 8.00pm at The Village Hall, Weston in Gordano.**

<b>Minute Ref:</b>	<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>Action</b>
	<p><b>Present:</b> Cllr Jon Bennett (Chair), Cllr Kevin Cranshaw, Cllr David Down,</p> <p><b>In attendance:</b> Penny Roberts minute taker and Peter Ballantyne as observer. There were also three members of the public present.</p>	
<b>001/20</b>	<b>Apologies</b> There were no apologies.	
<b>002/20</b>	<b>Motion to exclude the public</b> The Council agreed the motion to exclude the public and press from the meeting. Mr P Ballantyne left the meeting at this point.	
<b>003/20</b>	<b>Appointment of Clerk</b> The Council resolved to appoint Peter Ballantyne to the post of Weston in Gordano Parish Council Clerk taking effect from 10th January 2020 at an hourly rate of £11.22. The contract would be based on the national model contract for a Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer (RFO) and would be subject to a probationary period of six months. Council then resolved to open the meeting to the public for the remainder of the agenda. Mr P Ballantyne and the public joined the meeting at this point.	
<b>004/20</b>	<b>Chairman's comments</b> The Chair welcomed three villagers to the meeting. He opened the meeting by explaining that the start time of the meeting had been changed to 8.00pm to allow the Councillors to interview a candidate for the position of Clerk to the Parish Council, in closed session prior to the meeting. Cllr Bennett was pleased to announce the appointment of Peter Ballantyne to this position, and welcomed Peter to the meeting.	
<b>005/20</b>	<b>Minutes of the meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> December 2019</b> The minutes of the meeting, held on 5 <sup>th</sup> December 2019 were agreed as an accurate record and were signed by the Chairman.	
<b>006/20</b>	<b>Co-option of Councillors and the new Clerk</b> Co-options No action as yet.	<b>All</b>

### **Clerk vacancy**

As outlined above, the Chair confirmed that Peter Ballantyne has been appointed and would be taking up the role of clerk, with effect from the following day.

### **007/20 Matters arising from the previous meeting and actions**

- a) **Gesture in recognition of the former clerk's 30 years' service:** in progress, Peter Yates Round is contacting Nigel Ashton to explore options.
- b) **Weight restriction measure through village:** Nigel Ashton not able to help due to changed political balance within Council. Meeting felt it appropriate to engage with Clevedon and Portishead P.C.'s as any restriction will clearly go wider than the village. Need to continue to work on strategy for this.
- c) **Hill Lane gravel debris nuisance issue** – Email still to be actioned.

IH/JB

### **008/20 FINANCE AND SETTING THE PRECEPT FOR 2020-21**

The Chair advised that the account balance, as at 5 December 2019, was £13,751.53, prior to expenditure agreed at the 5 December meeting. Some detail re finances still to confirm with Catherine Dixon.

Costs for this month:

- a) Website hosting £47.88 due by 13 January. Query as to whether Parish Council wishes to remain with this company? JB
- b) ALCA Councillor training course fee £40 JB
- c) Electricity bill – amount £68-86 JB
- d) Noted amount of work Catherine Dixon has continued to do, in receiving, processing and passing on information to the P.C. since she officially finished. Suggested that P.C. should make an ex gratia payment of £50 x 2 months in recognition. Proposed David Giles, Seconded David Down. Unanimously agreed. JB

### **Setting the precept for 2020-21**

Cllr Jon Bennett stated that the precept for current financial year had been set at £6,400, the only increase being for inflation. He suggested that for 2020-21 a similar increase for inflation of 1.75% would be appropriate. In addition costs initiated during the current year, that will continue into the year ahead needed to be included in the budget:

- a) **Cost of dog waste bins.** A villager asked if a bin could be provided for Hill Lane; the meeting confirmed that this had been part of the original plan. Agreed, approx. cost of £90 for post/bin installation, plus the servicing costs of £20 per month to be added to the precept £20x 12 = £240, total £330.
- b) **Website costs:** Current contract up for renewal. A query was raised on changes needed in order to meet new

accessibility regulations. Councillors acknowledged that there was a lot of work to do. Peter Ballantyne advised that if the P.C. undertakes an appropriate self-assessment of the website's current accessibility, and develops an action plan of improvements, they would meet the 1st stage legislative requirements. It was acknowledged that the costs of necessary improvements would be considerable.  
ACTION Agreed in the first instance to seek web design expertise within the village.

**All**

There was some discussion of the level of contingency that it was appropriate to hold, currently fund reserved towards the Gordano Green Way development.

- c) Gardening Club: Main expenditure for work on the village green and planters will be in the Spring, for which £1,000 has been allocated.

Peter Ballantyne advised that the charge to residents will vary slightly dependant on the current exact number of taxpayers (tax base) in the village; he offered to check this. With this proviso, the level of precept was agreed to be £6,500.

**PB**

**009/20 Planning**

Application from Boxwood Cottage, for reduction of tree height, and removal of length of hedge by the garage. Proposal discussed and agreed no objections.

**PB**

**010/20 Highways**

No items.

**011/20 ROUTINE CORRESPONDENCE**

- a) Letter of grateful thanks for financial support for Parish Pump, received from Stu Redway.
- b) Invitation to Climate Action Planning Workshop- no action.

**012/20 Speedwatch**

Cllr Cranshaw explained that the Speedwatch sign, coming into the village from the west, needed to be relocated. Following discussion a new location on the other side of the road was identified; Cllr Cranshaw to double check that it will not cause any visual obstruction before installing. He reported that the installation of the larger planters has noticeably slowed traffic. New Speedwatch team would be starting the following weekend.

A villager reported concerns over drivers accelerating rapidly near Church Close, as they leave the village at speed. This was suggested as a location for Speedwatch.

**013/20 Gordano Greenway**

Cllr Bennett gave new clerk Peter Ballantyne a brief introduction to the background to the Greenway campaign, for his information. It continues

to be an important project, with issues on the proposed route still needing to be resolved with landowners. A villager raised a concern on the proposed entrance to the path from the village, at a narrow part in the road, which is noted.

**014/20 Neighbourhood Watch**

The need for a new coordinator was flagged up in the last Parish Pump, no responses as yet, very difficult to engender any enthusiasm. The meeting noted how long it is since the Police attended a meeting, and this was felt to be negative. Cllr Giles suggested he could contact Sue Mountstevens to seek a way of improving contact.

**DG**

**015/20 Broadband**

No recent news.

**016/20 Middle Common Bridle Way**

Cllr Downs told the meeting that representatives of Avon Wildlife Trust would be in the valley for an event on 6 February, and suggested he could invite his contact to attend the P.C. meeting that evening. Agreed.

**DD**

**017/20 Village Green**

Gardening Group carried out more clearing on Village Green in readiness for next stage of planting, also filled large container with soil and planted.

**018/20 Seven Acres Wood and other land – Landowner Deposit Statement**

Cllr Holding has now received useful information pack from the Open Spaces Society, and outlined the issues and difficulties, and the need for a particular type of approach to identify habitual users. Agreed he should take the lead on looking at options for strategy and timeline. Cllr Holding also suggested value of developing WIG Local Neighbourhood Plan, especially now Regional Spatial Strategy has now failed. Cllrs Bennet and Holding to discuss prior to next meeting, including option of small working group.

**JB/IH**

**019/20 Any other business**

The Chairman expressed thanks to the Social Committee and village households who had contributed to making the village look so festive at Christmas.

**Date of the next meeting**

Thursday 6 February, at 7.30 in the Village Hall.

**All to  
note**

**The Meeting Closed at 9.45 pm**